

LIVING
NATIVITY
SCENE

DECEMBER 19, 1965

NATIVITY SCENE TO BE PRESENTED SUNDAY, DEC. 19

Committees Named for 2nd Annual Pageant

Townpeople of Bethel will again proudly offer their fine contribution to the Christmas season, the Living Nativity Scene, on the Common, Sunday, Dec. 19. This unique and beautiful pageant, presented for the first time last year, was shown and acclaimed by television's WMTW-TV viewing audience on Christmas Eve. Its great success was due to the tremendous support of all Bethel people and participation by all Bethel churches.

Mrs. Susan Farrar, general chairman and coordinator, has appointed the following committees, hopefully anticipating that those who so skillfully served in these capacities last year will again be willing to assume the responsibility: calling committee, Mrs. Madge Vogt; publicity, Mrs. Rosabelle Tift; clearing common and traffic control, Roderick McMillin; lights, Fred McMillin and Blake MacKay; stable, Ernest Perkins, Stanley Davis and Boy Scouts; special lighting, Paul Pierce; Christmas trees, American Legion; Christmas tree decoration, American Legion Auxiliary; manger, James Browne; fencing, Richard Carter; casting and costumes, Philippa Glines, Marylou Fiske, Nellie Frankevicz, Carolyn Merrill, Nesta Littlefield, Sue Fiske and Emily Saunders; pantomime direction and make-up, Irma Thompson; props, Arlene Brown and Virginia Keniston; refreshments for cast between scenes, Girl Scouts; guiding stars, Crescent Park School children.

Bethel area people, interested in assisting on any of the committees, are requested to contact Mrs. Susan Farrar.

SPECIAL NATIVITY SCENE COMMITTEES TO MEET

Committees named for the Living Nativity scene, scheduled for Sunday Dec. 19, are actively preparing for this second annual event. All committee members responded in the usual fine community team spirit.

There will be a short meeting of the costume and casting, make-up, and properties committees on Tuesday, Nov. 30, from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m., at the home of Mrs. Emily Saunders. Anyone not previously contacted, who may be interested in assisting on one of these committees, is welcome to attend.

Mrs. Jane Grover will be responsible for locating the necessary animals for the pageant. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of a black sheep is asked to contact Mrs. Grover.

Bethel Residents Prepare for Living Nativity Scene

BETHEL — Townpeople will present their second annual Living Nativity Scene, Dec. 19, on the Bethel Common. Performances of this pageant were televised last year and shown on Christmas eve. Its great success was due to the support of all Bethel People and participation by all Bethel churches.

The community is once again actively preparing for this unique event.

Mrs. Charles Farrar, general chairman and coordinator, has called a special meeting of the costume and casting, make-up and properties committees for Tuesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Addison C. Saunders, Main Street.

Committees were named by Mrs. Farrar as follows: Calling committee, Mrs. Madge Vogt; publicity, Mrs. Rosabelle Tift; clearing common and traffic control, Roderick McMillan; lights, Fred McMillan and Blake McKay; stable, Ernest Perkins, Stanley Davis and Bethel Boy Scouts; special lighting effects, Paul Pierce; Christmas trees, American Legion; Christmas tree decorations, American Legion Auxiliary; manger, James Browne; fencing, Richard Carter; costumes and casting, Philippa Glines, Marylou Fiske, Nellie Frankevicz, Emily Saunders, Carolyn Merrill, Nesta Littlefield and Sue Fiske; make-up and pantomime direction, Irma Thompson; properties, Arlene Brown and Virginia Keniston; refreshments between scenes for cast, Girl Scouts; animals, Jane Grover; and guiding stars, Crescent Park School Children.

DECEMBER 2, 1965

'WIZARD OF OZ' AND LIVE NATIVITY SCENE TO BE HELD DEC. 19

In preparation for the Live Nativity Scene which will be held on the Common, Dec. 19, a planning meeting was held on Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Emily Saunders. The committee is delighted to announce that the Children's Theatre of Portland will present the "Wizard of Oz" at 3 p. m. at Bingham Hall on the same afternoon. The first pageant showing will follow this presentation at 4:30 p. m.

It was noted that some very lovely pieces of tapestry and velvet were donated last year. The committee is hoping to have more donations to add to their collection this year.

A rehearsal for the entire cast has been scheduled for Sunday Dec. 12, at 2 p. m.

RUMFORD FALLS TIMES — THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1965

Bethel's Living Nativity Scene To Be Given Dec 19

Bethel's second annual "Living Nativity Scene" will be enacted on the Bethel Common this Sunday at 4:30 p. m., 5:30 p. m. and 6:30 p. m. Visitors from all surrounding areas are invited to attend and share this experience. Bethel people are duly proud of their outstanding contribution to the Christmas season, in which all Bethel churches participate.

TV Portrayal

Last year's televised pageant will be shown over W. M. T. W.'s "Talent Spotlight" Christmas show on Sunday evening. This year's pageant will again be televised, possibly for showing on Christmas eve.

Guiding Stars

Guiding stars have been placed on all roads leading into Bethel to direct townspeople and visitors to the "manger". Crescent Park school children, under the supervision of Miss Helen Varner, have been responsible for making and erecting these stars.

Church bells will chime throughout the town ten minutes before each pageant portrayal, and then Christmas hymns will be heard as the crowds gather.

Teams of bell ringers include Bradley Fiske, Gregory Bryant, John Trinward, Jack Chapman, Thomas Coolidge, James Haskell, Warren Tibbetts, Brian Buck, Chris Murphy, Dean Murphy, Ronald Jackson and Bruce Smith.

Pageant Scenes

The thirty minute pageant scene is done in pantomime with the beautiful Christmas story told with a background commentary by Michael Chretien, and appropriate Christmas hymns. The area will be aglow with lights; and participants, artistically costumed, will give an inspiring presentation. At the completion of each scene, all viewers will be invited to join in the singing of the final hymn, "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful".

Participants

Participants in the pageant will include Susanne Kneeland, Clinton Jenkins, Cynthia Fiske, Lawrence Davis, Roland Glines, James Fiske, Alan Curtis, Daniel Vogt, Daniel Favreau, Robert Tift Jr., John Gauthier, Douglas Farrar, John Thurston, Peter Kailey, Steven Hastings, Jeffrey Brown, Phillip Rolfe, Daniel Davis, Mark Walker, Alan Walker, Roger Dock, James Perkins, Claire Batchelder, Kerry Smith, Larry Smith, Robert Judkins and Roger Jackson.

Committees

Mrs. Charles Farrar is general chairman and coordinator for this project. The costume and casting committee includes Mrs. Roland Glines, Mrs. James Fiske, Mrs. John Frankevitz, Mrs. Addison C. Saunders, Mrs. Charles D. Merrill, Mrs. Lincoln Fiske and Mrs. Richard Littlefield.

Make-up and pantomime is under the direction of Mrs. David Thompson. Mrs. Donald Brown and Mrs. Robert Kenniston are in charge of properties. Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Cadettes will serve refreshments to the cast between scenes. Mrs. Jane Grover is in charge of the animals.

Other committees include: Telephoning, Mrs. Frank Vogt, Sr.; Publicity, Mrs. Robert Tift; Clearing the Common and Traffic Control, Roderick McMillan; Lights, Fred McMillan and Blake McKay, Stable; Ernest Perkins, Stanley Davis and the Bethel Boy Scouts; Special lighting effects, Paul Pierce; Christmas Trees, American Legion, with the American Legion Auxiliary decorating the trees; Manager, James Browne; Sound, Clayton Crockett; and Fencing, Richard Carter.

When the last pageant is over, Mrs. George Taylor will place her lifesize hand painted nativity figures in the stable for the remainder of the Christmas season.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1965

PLANS PROGRESSING FOR NATIVITY SCENE

Bethel townspeople are enthusiastically preparing for their second annual "Living Nativity Scene" to take place on the Bethel Common, Sunday December 19.

Representatives from all local churches, and many organizations, are involved in the planning and cast for this community event. All cast members are reminded to report for rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2:00 p. m. at the fire station.

Crescent Park School children, under the supervision of Miss Helen Varner, have been delegated the complete responsibility for the "guiding stars," which are very effective for this solemn occasion. The children will map out the area for placing the stars on all roads leading into Bethel to the Manger, and will arrange to collect them after the pageant.



Plan Community Project

A few of the key people who will be coordinating the second annual community sponsored Living Nativity Scene on Bethel Common, Dec. 19, are, left to right, Mrs. Charles Farrar, Mrs.

Robert Keniston, Mrs. David Thompson, Mrs. Lincoln Fiske and Mrs. Roland Glines. (By Area Correspondent Timberlake)

'Living Nativity' Dec. 19 At Bethel

BETHEL — Planning is now well under way for the second annual "Living Nativity Scene" to be presented Dec. 19 by the community on Bethel Common.

Mrs. Charles Farrar again is general chairman and coordinator of the pageant, approximately 30 minutes in duration, which will be repeated three times during the late afternoon and early evening at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Assisting her, from the town at large, are Mrs. David Thompson, pantomime direction and make-up; Mrs. Lincoln B. Fiske, casting; Mrs. Roland Glines, costumes; Mrs. Donald Brown and Mrs. Robert Keniston, properties.

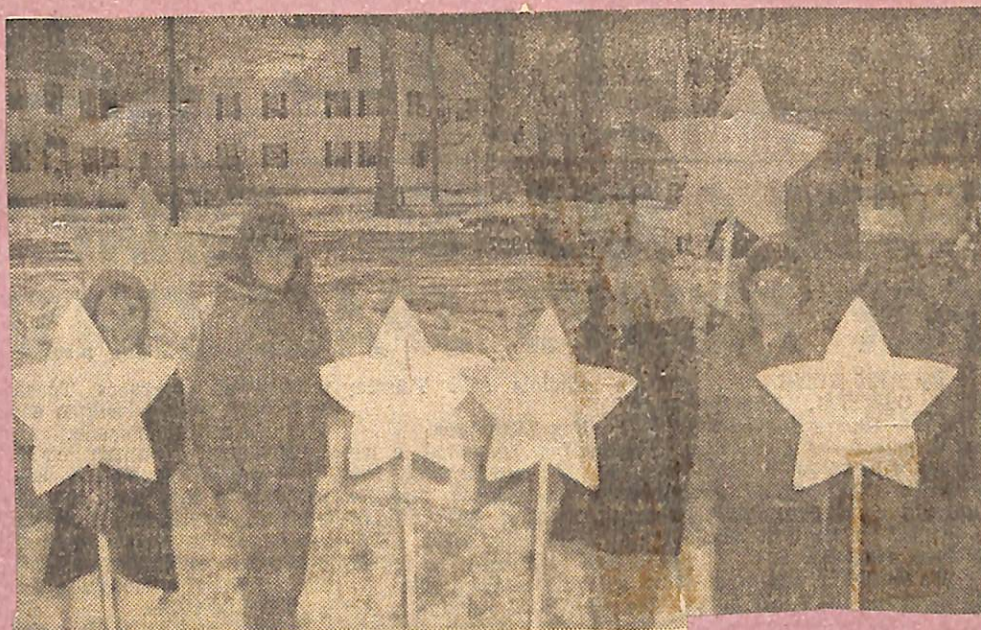
These committees will work together and combine to help at the pageant with Mrs. Richard Littlefield, Mrs. John Franke-

vicz, Mrs. Addison C. Saunders, Mrs. James Fiske and Mrs. Charles Merrill.

At the Common, snow clearance and traffic control will be handled by Roderick McMillin; general lighting, Fred McPaul Pierce, sound Clayton Crockett; stable, Ernest Perkins, Stanley Davis, and Boy Scout troop; manger, James Browne; animals, Mrs. Robert Grover; fencing, Richard Carter; Christmas trees, Mundt-Allen Post, AL, and decorating, AL auxiliary.

Miss Helen Varner is supervising Crescent Park School pupils with preparation of guiding stars and their erection. Girl Scout troops will serve refreshments to cast members between scenes.

Mrs. Robert Tift is publicity chairman, with Mrs. Frank A. Vogt Sr. on the telephone.



BETHEL CHILDREN ENACT NATIVITY — Shown are some of the Crescent Park School children who will be placing guiding stars to the manger on all roads leading into Bethel, in preparation for Sunday's Living Nativity Scene. Crescent Park School children, under Miss Helen Varner's supervision, have been delegated the complete responsibility for making, erecting and later collecting these stars which are used very effectively in this solemn occasion, from left to right, are Cathy Vogt, Cynthia Tiftt. Merry Ann Robertson, Llewellyn Cobb and Miss Varner.

Living Nativity Scene Is to Be Enacted at Bethel

BETHEL—Bethel's second annual Living Nativity Scene will be enacted on the Bethel Common, Sunday at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Visitors from all surrounding areas are invited to attend and share this experience. Bethel people are proud of their outstanding contribution to the Christmas season, in which all Bethel churches participate.

Guiding stars have been placed on all roads leading into Bethel to direct townspeople and visitors to the manger. Crescent Park school children, under the supervision of Miss Helen Varner, have been responsible for making and erecting these stars.

Church bells will chime throughout the town 10 minutes before each pageant portrayal, and then Christmas hymns will be heard as the crowds gather.

Teams of bell ringers include Bradley Fiske, Gregory Bryant, John Trinward, Jack Chapman, Thomas Coolidge, James Haskell, Warren Tibbetts, Brian Buck, Chris and Dean Murphy, Ronald Jackson and Bruce Smith.

The 30 minute pageant scene is done in pantomime with the Christmas story told with a background commentary by Michael Chretien and appropriate Christmas hymns. The area will be aglow with lights; and participants, artistically costumed, will give an inspiring presentation. At the completion of each scene, all viewers will be invited to join in the singing of the final hymn, Oh, Come All Ye Faithful.

Participants in the pageant will include Susanne Kneeland, Clinton Jenkins, Cynthia Fiske, Lawrence Davis, Roland Glines,

James Fiske, Alan Curtis, Daniel Vogt, Daniel Favreau, Robert Tiftt Jr., John Gauthier, Douglas Farrar, John Thurston, Peter Kailey, Steven Hastings, Jeffrey Brown, Phillip Rolfe, Daniel Davis, Mark Walker, Alan Walker, Roger Dock, James Perkins, Claire Batchelder, Kerry and Larry Smith, Robert Judkins and Roger Jackson.

Charles Farrar is general chairman and coordinator for this project. The costume and casting committee includes Mrs. Roland Glines, Mrs. James Fiske, Mrs. John Frankevicz, Mrs. Addison C. Saunders, Mrs. Charles D. Merrill, Mrs. Lincoln Fiske and Mrs. Richard Littlefield. Make-up and pantomime is under the direction of Mrs. David Thompson. Mrs. Donald Brown and Mrs. Robert Kenniston are in charge of properties. Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Cadettes will serve refreshments to the cast between scenes. Mrs. Jane Grover is in charge of the animals.

Other committees include telephoning, Mrs. Frank Vogt Sr.; publicity, Mrs. Robert Tiftt; clearing the Common and traffic control, Roderick McMillan; lights, Fred McMillan and Blake McKay; stable, Ernest Perkins, Stanley Davis and the Bethel Boy Scouts; special light-

ing effects, Paul Pierce; Christmas trees, American Legion, with the American Legion Auxiliary decorating the trees; Manger, James Browne; sound, Clayton Crockett; and fencing, Richard Carter.

When the last pageant is over, Mrs. George Taylor will place her life-sized hand painted nativity figures in the stable for the remainder of the Christmas season.

Participants for Bethel Nativity Scene Announced

BETHEL — The cast for the third annual Outdoor Living Nativity Scene to be presented Dec. 18 has been selected.

Participating in the pageant scenes will be shepherds, Merton Brown, Thomas Davis, Andy Davis, William Eames, Richard Waldron, Seth Timberlake, Lincoln Fiske Jr., Daniel Favreau, Robert Tift Jr., Daniel Vogt, Claire Batchelder, Douglas Farrar, Mark Walker, James Perkins, Lloyd Sweetsir, David Kenniston, Dean Murphy, Roger Jackson, George Nickerson, Larry Robinson, and William Robinson. Wisemen, David Thurston, Dana Brooks and Norris Brown. Angels, Jeannine Merrill, Theresa Hebert, Marilyn Hebert. Mary: Margaret Cousins; Joseph, William Cousins. Infant, Charles Cousins.

Committees include general chairman, Mrs. David Thompson; director, Mrs. Charles Farrar; guiding stars, Frederick Raynes, principal of Crescent Park School, with Miss Helen Varner and her sixth grade students; Costumes, Mrs. Lincoln Fiske, chairman, Mrs. Alvin Barth, Mrs. Roger Favreau, Mrs. Warren Hastings, Mrs. Edmond Vachon, Mrs. Austin Conover, Mrs. Emma Howe, Mrs. Roland Glines, Mrs. Wilbur Myers, Mrs. Dana Brooks, Mrs. Murray Thurston and Mrs. Norris Brown. Make-up, Mrs. John

Frankewicz, chairman, Mrs. Fernand Favreau, Mrs. Thomas Jeffries, Mrs. Geraldine Shimamura, Mrs. Drew Webster, Mrs. Stanley Merrill and Mrs. John Price; snow clearance and traffic control, Roderick McMillin; lighting, Frederick McMillin and Blake McKay; special lighting effects: Eugene Tebbets and Stephen Trinward.

Sound effects, Clayton Crockett erection of stable and flooring, Boy Scouts under direction of leader, Irving Cummings; animals, sheep, W.E. Graves; oxen, John Coolidge; horse, Eileen Saunders; burro, Dr. James Hudson. Hay for flooring and animals, William Chapman II; transportation of animals, Dr. James Hudson, Bruce Bailey and William Chapman, II; fencing, Richard Carter, Richard Waldron and Henry Donkowski; Christmas trees to surround scene, American Legion and decorating of trees by the American Legion Auxiliary; costume sewing, Mrs. Bruce Bailey and Mrs. Horace Marcy; refreshments for cast between pageant scenes: Bethel Girl Scouts under the direction of Mrs. Albert Smith, Mrs. Colwyn Haskell and Mrs. Richard Vaughan; property, Mrs. Donald Brown; publicity, Mrs. Robert Tift; bell ringers, Stephen Richardson, Peter Thurston, Peder Weise, Ronald Jackson, Chris Murphy.



They Will Call The People

The 1847 bell in the steeple of West Parish Congregational Church is inspected by members of the junior high Sunday School class who will ring it to summon people to the Liv-

ing Nativity Scene. Around the bell are Bradley Fiske, Thomas Coolidge, James Haskell, Gregory Bryant, Jack Chapman, and John Trinward. (By Area Correspondent Timberlake)

Casting Completed For Living Nativity At Bethel

BETHEL — Casting for the second annual Living Nativity Scene, to be presented Dec. 19 on Bethel Common, was completed this week.

The scene, which will be approximately 20 to 30 minutes in duration, is scheduled for showings at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., with church bells ringing in the Methodist, Nazarene, and West Parish Congregational 10 minutes before each performance.

Participating, according to Mrs. Charles Farrar, general chairman, are, Miss Suzanne Kneeland, as Mary; Clinton Jenkins, Joseph; infant Cynthia Fiske, as the Babe; Lawrence Davis, Roland Glines, and James Fiske, wisemen.

Shepherds include Alan Curtis, Daniel Vogt, Daniel Favreau, Robert Tift Jr., John Gauthier, Douglas Farrar, John Thurston, Peter Kailey, Stephen Hastings, Jeffrey Brown, Philippe Rolfe, Daniel Davis, Mark Walker, Allan Walker, Roger Dock, James Perkins, Claire Batchelder, Kerry Smith, Larry

Smith, Robert Judkins, Roger Jackson.

The Bell Ringers are Bradley Fiske, Gregory Bryant, John Trinward, Jack Chapman, Thomas Coolidge, James Haskell, Warren Tibbetts, Brian Buck, Chris Murphy, Dean Murphy, Ronald Jackson, and Bruce Smith.



LIVING NATIVITY SCENE AGAIN HIGHLIGHT OF LOCAL YULE SEASON

Bethel's annual Living Nativity Scene, offered again on the Common last Sunday, demonstrated once again what a small community can do!

Church bells chiming before each presentation found visitors from far and wide bringing their children to view the beautiful Christmas story portrayed in pagentry. Stan Davis' fine running commentary was equalled only by Jim Owen's carolers who sang joyously at interludes. Special lighting effects set up by John Munger made the scene glow iridescently in the night. The final scene was filmed by WCSH-TV and shared over Channel 6 on Tuesday evening.

FINAL NARRATION of Sunday's Living Nativity carries a Christmas message to all:

"May we all pause and reflect from time to time during this Christmas season, that we are celebrating not only a happy holiday where we give and receive gifts, but, above all, the most important single event of all history—the birth of Jesus Christ."

Chairman, Suzanne Kneeland, and director, Susan Farrar, coordinated a fine esprit de corps with committees and participants behind the scenes.

But the final result pays tribute to many community people working together. Larger areas may have their Christmases lighted in many different ways, but we in Bethel shine with our Living Nativity!

Bethel Citizen - December 21, 1967

LIVING NATIVITY SCENE TO BE PRESENTED SUNDAY ON COMMON

Bethel's second annual "Living Nativity Scene" will be enacted on the Bethel Common this Sunday at 4:30 p. m., 5:30 p. m. and 6:30 p. m. Visitors from all surrounding areas are invited to attend and share this experience. Bethel people are duly proud of their outstanding contribution to the Christmas season, in which all Bethel churches participate.

Last year's televised pageant will be shown over WMTW's "Talent Spotlight" Christmas show on Sunday evening. This year's pageant will again be filmed, possibly for showing on Christmas Eve.

Guiding stars have been placed on all roads leading into Bethel to direct townspeople and visitors to the "manger." Crescent Park School children, under the supervision of Miss Helen Varner, have been responsible for making and erecting these stars.

Church bells will chime throughout the town ten minutes before each pageant portrayal, and then Christmas hymns will be heard as the crowds gather. Teams of bell ringers include, Bradley Fiske, Gregory Bryant, John Trinward, Jack Chapman, Thomas Coolidge, James Haskell, Warren Tibbetts, Brian Buck, Chris Murphy, Dean Murphy, Ronald Jackson and Bruce Smith.

The thirty minute pageant scene is done in pantomime with the beautiful Christmas story told with a background commentary by Michael Chretien, and appropriate Christmas hymns. The area will be aglow with lights; and participants, artistically costumed, will give an inspiring presentation. At the completion of each scene, all viewers will be invited to join in the singing of the final hymn, "O Come All Ye Faithful."



Some of the shepherds who will be participating in the Living Nativity Scene on the Bethel Common, Sunday: (two kneeling, left to right), James Perkins and Stephen Hastings; (three standing, left to right), Allan Walker, Phillip Rolfe, and John Thurston.

Participants in the pageant will be Susanne Kneeland, Clinton Jenkins, Cynthia Fiske, Lawrence Davis, Roland Glines, James Fiske, Alan Curtis, Daniel Vogt, Daniel Favreau, Robert Tiffitt Jr., John Gauthier, Douglas Farrar, John Thurston, Peter Kailey, Stephen Hastings, Jeffrey Brown, Phillip Rolfe, Daniel Davis, Mark Walker, Allan Walker, Roger Dock, James Perkins, Claire Batchelder, Kerry Smith, Larry Smith, Robert Judkins, and Roger Jackson.

Mrs. Charles Farrar, general chairman and coordinator, announces that a final rehearsal is scheduled for all participants on Saturday, at 5:00 p. m., on the Bethel Common.

After the pageant, Mrs. George Taylor will once again place her life-sized hand painted nativity figures in the stable for the remainder of the Christmas season.



**LIVING NATIVITY SCENE
PRESENTED FOR SECOND
YEAR LAST SUNDAY**

Once again, on Sunday evening, townspeople of Bethel presented their second "Living Nativity Scene." A blanket of newly fallen snow added serenity to the scene which glowed under the pageant lights.

Bells chimed over the town before each pageant, and Christmas hymns were heard as crowds hurried to the Manger. The beautiful Christmas story was solemnly enacted by proud participants, against an appropriate background commentary

and hymns. Everyone joined in the singing of the final hymn, "O Come All Ye Faithful".

Mrs. George Taylor has placed her lovely hand-painted life-size nativity figures at the Manger for the remainder of the Christmas season for all to enjoy.

This notable experience at Christmastime is shared by all Bethel people with each other, and with visitors from neighboring towns. All churches take part in this event which is presented in a true Christmas spirit. Bethel people can be deservedly proud of their fine gift to the Christmas season.

THANK YOU

To the churches, schools, organizations, cast, committees, individuals (and beautifully groomed animals) who so willingly gave of their time and talents during this busy season and made the second annual Living Nativity possible.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Susan Farrar

**BRYANT POND WOMAN
SAYS "THANK YOU" FOR
LIVING NATIVITY SCENE**

To the Coordinator and Committees for the Bethel Nativity Scene:

I was in Bethel on Sunday, December 19, and went over to the Common and watched the display of your wonderful Nativity Scene. Being a Bible student all my life, I was fascinated and spellbound. I stood in silence while the tears rolled down my face through it all. I may not be able to say in words what I felt, because Christmas to me means more than a display of commercialism and Santa Claus.

I was baptized by emersion on Christmas night. It was my gift to Him, who gave His all for my deliverance from Sin. That was in 1922. I am now 64 years old, and nowhere have I ever witnessed what I did on the Common watching your Nativity Scene.

The only way any of it could possibly be improved at all, might be through a little more shelter for the animals and the Mother and Infant. It was chilly, and in Bible reference, whether actually the winds or snow were in effect, I don't really know. Anyway, it was one of the greatest things I've seen in all my life.

Your example to the listening world, your influence in Bethel, and by now, in many other places, will be freighted by the matchless Holy Spirit of Almighty God, in this serious and living event. My prayer to Him, for what I've seen is that He may touch your heart as He has mine and may your light shine bright for Him, and may God bless every hand that helped in any way to establish this setting.

How wonderful Christmas could be if more of this (our Only Hope) were put into its rightful place, instead of piling the store shelves with war toys and feastings and drunkenness, and beer bottles desecrating our streets and highways.

For every moment I spent before that beautiful display, Amen to you and God richly bless. I know He will.

Miss Alice Chute
143 Roadside Rest
Bryant Pond, Maine